

REMARKS

The objections to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) have been obviated by the submission of substitute Figures 2 and 3, which indicate the wire harness recited in claim 4 in phantom as reference number 17.

Applicants' attorney respectfully traverses the Examiner's objection to the drawings with respect to the use of the term "tortuousness" in claim 17. This term merely means "marked by repeated twist, bends, or turns...." (See Webster's 9th New Collegiate Dictionary, page 1246(1985).) Such "tortuousness" is clearly illustrated in the vicinity of reference numerals 104 and 110 in Figure 1. Accordingly, applicants' attorney submits that this particular grounds of objection to the drawings should be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the Mochizuki '178 patent. Claim 1 specifically recites "a motor base mounted to the case", which corresponds item 56 in Figure 1 of the instant specification. Claim 1 further specifies that the motor base includes "a second fitting portion sealingly fitted with the shaft upper end portion such that the case and the motor base are rotatably supported along the vertical direction of the shaft..." By contrast, the component that the Examiner equates to the recited "motor base" in claim 1 is identified in the Mochizuki '178 patent as a "sealing cap 30... disposed to cover the driving unit 23, composed of the electric driving means 19 and the speed reduction mechanism 20..." (see column 4, lines 26-28). Because this sealing cap 30 directly fits on to the upper end of the cylinder shaft 13, (see Figure 3), there is direct relative rotary movement between the sealing cap 30 and the cylinder shaft 13. Hence, the Mochizuki structure is prone to all of the disadvantages set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the instant specification. In short, because the Mochizuki '178 patent neither discloses or suggests a motor base that the is mounted to the case which includes a second fitting portion that is separate from the rest of the motor base "such that the case and the motor base are rotatably supported along the vertical direction of the shaft by the first fitting portion..", Claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Mochizuki '178 patent.

Claims 1-20 are each patentable at least by reason of their ultimate dependency upon claim 1.

New claims 21, 22 and 23 are even more clearly patentable over the art of record. Specifically, new claim 21 now recites an electrically powered foldable mirror device for a vehicle that comprises a tubular shaft, a case, a mirror main body directly or indirectly supported by the case, and a motor base mounted to the case, and including a second fitting portion sealingly fitted with the shaft upper end portion, wherein the second fitting portion terminates “in a first engaging ring portion...”,

wherein the case includes a cover that has a second engaging ring portion that engages the first engaging ring portion.

None of the references of record either discloses or remotely suggest the foldable mirror device defined in amended claim 1. While the Mochizuki ‘178 discloses a foldable rearview mirror having a sealing cap 30 that forms a faucet-type joint over the end of the shaft 13, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the recited “second fitting portion”, that terminates “in a first engaging ring portion, ...” which in turn engages “a second engaging ring portion” of a case. Assuming, arguendo, that the structure illustrated in Figure 3 of the Mochizuki ‘178 patent corresponds to the recited “second fitting portion sealingly fitted with the shaft up end portion...” there simply is no “first engaging ring portion, ..”, nor the “second engaging ring portion” now recited in amended claim 1. For all of these reasons, claim 21 is clearly patentable over the Mochizuki ‘178 patent.

Claims 2-11 are dependent upon amended claim 1, and hence are patentable at least by reason of such dependency.

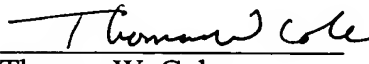
New claim 22 is patentable for substantially the same reasons given with respect to claim 21. While claim 22 is written in broader terms, it specifies that the case includes a cover having a cap portion that sealingly engages a top portion of said second fitting. No such structure is either remotely disclosed or suggested by the Mochizuki ‘178 patent. Again, all this reference discloses is a faucet fitting on an upper end portion of a shaft; there is no hint of the recited cap portion of a case, nor of any sealing engagement between such a component and a second fitting. For all these reasons, new claim 21 is clearly patentable over the art of record.

Finally, new claim 23 is patentable not only for its dependency on claim 1, but for its recitation that the motor base further includes “a cover fitted over said second fitting portion but for its recitation that the motor base further includes “a cover fitted

over said second fitting portion that does not rotate relative to said second fitting portion..”, a feature clearly taught away from by the Mochizuki ‘178 patent for all the reasons given with respect to the patentability of claim 1.

Now that all the claims are believed to be allowable, the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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